

Martin Luther King, Jr.

So Mr. Speaker, on this 50th anniversary of this beautifully written letter, I hope my colleagues will join me in reflecting on its powerful words. "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" stands as a reminder of how far we've come in our Nation and living up to the ideals of justice and equality for all.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, Ranking Member WAXMAN and I have sent 24 letters to Chairman UPTON of the Energy and Commerce Committee and Chairman WHITFIELD of the Energy and Power Committee since May 2011 requesting hearings on the science of climate change.

Mr. Speaker, since Mr. WAXMAN and I are not able to get the majority on the Energy and Commerce Committee to act, I take it upon myself to come to the House floor to speak directly to the American people on why this issue is so important to them. Power to the people.

Mr. Speaker, last year, 2012, marked the hottest year ever recorded in U.S. history. Fully two-thirds of our Nation experienced drought. Half of the Nation's grazing pastures and up to 30 percent of the Nation's corn crop was in poor condition, or in very poor condition, which impacted the price that the American people pay for their food, for ethanol, and for consumer goods for all of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, just because some of my colleagues might not like what the science is telling us, it does not mean that they can continue to put their collective heads in the sand and simply ignore these facts or wish these facts away.

Last year's record temperatures, serious droughts, pervasive wildfires, and widespread flooding prove that there is climate change occurring all around us on a regular basis continually.

And Mr. Speaker, the majority ignores climate change, not at some of our peril, not at a portion of our peril, not at a minority of our peril, but all of our perils are being impacted because of the majority's refusal to simply have the scientists come before the committee of jurisdiction and tell this Congress, in no uncertain terms, what is really happening to the world's climate.

□ 1040

Mr. Speaker, these very same scientists, these experts, these people who have spent and dedicated their lives to understanding climate and climate control and what is happening, these climatologists are waiting, they're willing, and they're eager to come before this Congress to share their information and their expertise with the Members of this Congress. The scientists are sounding the alarm and in-

forming us that we are reaching a critical tipping point as it relates to this very important issue of climate control.

Mr. Speaker, my prayers are for the people of Boston, my prayers are for the people in Boston, and my prayers are for the American people. All power to the people.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 41 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As the people's House gathers today, our Nation's heart is heavy as once again our domestic tranquility has been shattered by the selfish and violent actions witnessed yesterday near the finish line of the Boston Marathon.

We ask Your blessing, Lord, on those who died and those who mourn them, on those who were physically injured, and on those who have been emotionally traumatized. We give You thanks for those many who responded to the injured and to those who kept the order and keep it still.

And send Your Spirit upon whomever perpetrated this bombing and others who might contemplate emulating it. Calm their troubled souls, stay their violent hands. May those tasked with investigating this tragedy find success in their work, so that justice might be served and peace returned to our Nation's communities.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. O'ROURKE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. O'ROURKE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEES ON THE JUDICIARY AND HOMELAND SECURITY

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following resignations as a member of the Committees on the Judiciary and Homeland Security:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, April 16, 2013.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
The Capitol, Washington DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: In light of my recent appointment to the House Committee on Financial Services, I hereby resign my position on both the House Committee on the Judiciary and the House Committee on Homeland Security.

Sincerely,

KEITH ROTHFUS,  
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the resignations are accepted.  
There was no objection.

#### ELECTING A MEMBER TO A STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the House Republican Conference, I send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 162

*Resolved*, That the following named Member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES: Mr. Rothfus.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Washington?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### HONORING SAIGE HALSETH

(Ms. JENKINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor Saige Halseth, a fifth-grade student at Shawnee Heights Elementary School in Topeka, Kansas, who has brought together her community by helping her classmate, Alex White.

Alex suffers from a progressive neurological condition that affects his balance and mobility, and relied on a special companion, a service dog named